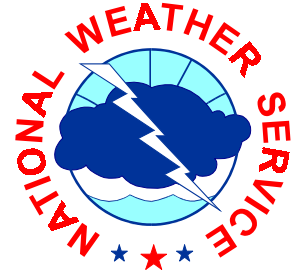




**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



SEPTEMBER 24, 2002

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Commerce Department Awards Gold Medal to Two Flagstaff National Weather Service Staff: The U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded a Gold Medal, the highest honorary award for extraordinary achievements in support of the Department's critical objectives, to Donald King and Andrew Justis, NEXRAD Electronic Technicians, NWS Forecast Office in Flagstaff, Arizona. The duo received recognition for heroism by taking immediate action to save the life of a severely injured person during the course of their official duties. The award was presented to Donnie and Andrew on September 24 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Congratulations Donnie and Andrew!

Holm Award: On September 23, Edwina Knowles of Neihart, Montana, received one of the National Weather Service's (NWS) most prestigious awards for observing and reporting weather in Montana for 22 years. The "John Campanius Holm Award" was presented to Knowles during a ceremony at the Crystal Inn of Great Falls, Montana. Knowles's award was one of 27 presented nationally by the NWS this year. Harold Knocke, Regional Cooperative Program Manager, NWS Western Region Headquarters in Salt Lake City, presented the award to Knowles. Seventeen other cooperative observers were also honored with length of service awards for weather observing.

WFO Eureka Gets California's First TsunamiReady Community: Through the team efforts of the City of Crescent City, the Del Norte County Office of Emergency Services, and the WFO Eureka, the City of Crescent City was cited as "StormReady" and as California's first "TsunamiReady" community on September 19. The ceremony was conducted in an area of Crescent City, California affected by a 1964 tsunami. Meteorologist in Charge Nancy Dean presented Crescent City officials with two special road signs they will soon place at the entrance to the city. Crescent City became the sixth community to receive the special TsunamiReady designation in the nation and the first in California. Congratulations to WFO Eureka!

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's statement of the week is a dense fog advisory (DFA) issued by forecaster Ray Tanabe of WFO Los Angeles - Oxnard. The DFA does an excellent job in specifying the areas affected by the fog, including major roadways. Good job Ray.

.WWUS76 KLOX 240752
NPWLOX

September 24, 2002

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URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LOS ANGELES/OXNARD CA
1245 AM PDT TUE SEP 24 2002

...DENSE FOG ADVISORIES HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR COASTAL AREAS OF LOS ANGELES...VENTURA AND SOUTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES...

AREAS OF DENSE FOG HAVE DEVELOPED ACROSS COASTAL SECTIONS OF LOS ANGELES...VENTURA AND SOUTHERN SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES TONIGHT...REDUCING VISIBILITIES TO LESS THAN ONE QUARTER MILE IN MANY LOCATIONS. THE DENSE FOG WILL BE CONFINED TO AREAS WITHIN THREE TO FIVE MILES OF THE IMMEDIATE COAST. THE FOG WILL BEGIN TO THIN OUT BETWEEN 800 AM AND 900 AM...FOLLOWED BY IMPROVING VISIBILITIES.

IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY...ROADWAYS WHICH WILL BE ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY THE DENSE FOG INCLUDE THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY...AND PORTIONS OF THE 405...10 AND 105 FREEWAYS. ACROSS VENTURA AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES...ROADWAYS WHICH WILL BE MOST AFFECTED INCLUDE HIGHWAY 1 AND THE 101 FREEWAY. WHEN DRIVING IN DENSE FOG... REDUCE SPEED AND USE LOW BEAM HEADLIGHTS.

CAZ039>041-241045-
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SOUTH COAST
VENTURA COUNTY COAST-
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COAST INCLUDING DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES-
1245 AM PDT TUE SEP 24 2002

...A DENSE FOG ADVISORY HAS BEEN ISSUED UNTIL 900 AM...

FOR AREAS OF VISIBILITIES OF ONE QUARTER MILE OR LESS. FOG WILL BEGIN TO THIN OUT BETWEEN 800 AM AND 900 AM...FOLLOWED BY IMPROVING CONDITIONS.

\$\$
KAPLAN/TANABE

Hazardous Weather Outlook: The Regional Supplement (formerly known as "ROML") to accompany the Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) (NWS Instruction 10-707, Multi-Purpose Weather Products), has gone through two field reviews and was also reviewed by Weather Service Headquarters. WFOs will receive a copy of the final Supplement in time to implement the Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) October 1. Key points about the HWO are:

1. The HWO will be issued daily between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. local time. Exceptions are allowed during certain seasons of the year, such as the Southwest summer monsoon season.
2. The HWO does not replace outlook information in the SPS. The HWO should refer to the SPS when such an outlook has been issued.
3. Care must be taken to coordinate HWOs for adjacent CWAs. Forecasters must also be aware of the other outlook products still being issued (e.g., weekly hazard assessment, flood potential outlooks, etc.)
4. HWOs should address all significant weather impacts. At a minimum, the HWO should alert users to events meeting at least advisory criteria and certainly those events which have, or could, prompt a watch or warning to be issued.
5. Only two phrases are allowed to indicate little or no hazardous weather expected: "NO HAZARDOUS WEATHER IS EXPECTED AT THIS TIME" and "THE PROBABILITY FOR WIDESPREAD HAZARDOUS WEATHER IS LOW." These phrases, when used at the very beginning of both the DAY ONE and DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN sections, will prevent a CWA from being highlighted in color on Web pages.

CRS and VIP Update: Western Region offices continue to lead the way in implementation of the VIP voices, with 15 of 24 WFOs using VIP for all or nearly all of their NWR content. A new build of CRS (8.5) and VIP (2.0.2) will be forthcoming in November. A few of the bug fixes that are included in this build are:

- * The CRS 'Alert Tone "None"' setting will work (great for large counties)
- * The SAME originator code may be set to "CIV" for non-weather hazards
- * VIP will no longer choke on long filenames
- * Various fixes for truncation and database corruption problems
- * The remote FTP function of VIP will work

Western Region offices are encouraged to work with local/state EAS groups to implement VIP for warning products and take advantage of the time savings over voice recording, and the improved quality over the Dectalk voice.

NOAA Weather Radio Expansion: Nationwide, 100 new NWR sites were installed in FY02, with 11 of them done in Western Region. MSD is very indebted to Joe Lachacz in SOD and the WFO staff members who put in long hours preparing grant applications and MOUs, doing site surveys, and installing equipment. More USDA/RUS grants are being approved every week, and we expect to continue to see strong NWR expansion through FY03. Those who have cooperators interested in applying for USDA/RUS grants are encouraged to do so, since the RUS approved another \$2 million in funding for NWR grants in FY03. That brings the total to \$7 million in funds available, with about \$6 million applied for as of early September.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES

AHPS Products and Information Team Survey: The AHPS Products and Information Team has posted a survey on the Web to collect input from NWS employees on graphical hydrologic products. The Team is charged with defining a core suite of graphical hydrologic products. The goal of the Team is to establish guidelines for consistent information in a standard format. This is an opportunity for each NWS employee to influence what information is included in the core suite and what format is used to convey that information. The survey can be found at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/ahpsteam/survey.php>

Please take a few minutes and share your thoughts with the Team.

National Hydrology Policy Posted: The national policy in the directive format covering the hydrology program has been posted to the national Web site. This policy replaces much of the old WSOM E-Chapters. Western Region HCSD is in the process of updating and converting the existing regional policy into the new format. During the transition, the existing regional policy as described in the Western Region Operations Manual Letters (ROMLs) is still valid. The new national policy can be seen and retrieved from the following Web site:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

The regional policy can be found at:

<http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/amd/ROMLfiles/ROMLindex.htm>

WR Climate Services Steering Committee Meeting: The WR Climate Services Steering Committee held their second meeting September 10-12, 2002, at CDC in Boulder, Colorado. The purpose for the meeting was to finalize the Committee's proposal for Climate Services in WR. The proposal is in the final draft stage and will be ready for presentation early October. The proposal's purpose is to clarify and enhance the Climate Services Program at the WFO level. In the near future, a similar proposal will be created for the RFCs, with an RFC committee. As a reminder, the Climate Services Steering Committee is made up of six WFO members and the WR Climate Services Program Manager. Upon approval of the plan by the Regional Director, the Committee will prepare an implementation plan.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Reminder: SOO/DOH Professional Development and Training Report Due: The due date for the SOO/DOH Professional Development and Training Report is October 10, 2002. Please prepare the Training Report for the period April 1, 2002 to September 30, 2002, and

September 24, 2002

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the Training Plan for the period October 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003.

Here are a few guidelines for preparing the reports.

1. Only the truly significant office PD&T accomplishments for an individual or team need to be included in the report. IDPs are the place for personal goals and accomplishments. This report is only for office training accomplishments and goals.
2. The format will remain flexible and up to each office. This is no change from the current procedures.
3. Please send your report in as an email attachment. WordPerfect is preferred and no hard copy is required unless you use some unusual software or font arrangement.
4. The report should be reviewed and approved by your MIC/HIC.

NWSTC Courses: NWSH informed us in the past week that a FY02 unfunded request for additional NWSTC courses was granted and will be applied to FY03. The additional courses are;

Management and Supervision--June 16-27.

Field Operations Management--February 4-7 and September 16-19.

AWIPS Applications--December 17-20, May 20-23, and September 16-19.

In addition and due to a high FY03 demand, a second DLOC course (February 4-7, 2003) was added at the expense of one Severe Weather WDM workshop (February 3-6, 2003). This latter workshop has been postponed with no new dates set at this time. Western Region (WR) employees on the waiting lists for the above courses will have first priority for WR slots, and SSD will ask for nominations for additional WR allotted slots this week.

Technical Memorandum (TM) to be Published: The Third Revision of TM-95, "Climate of Flagstaff, Arizona," authored by Mike Staudenmaier, Jr.; Reginald Preston (Retired); and Paul Sorenson (Retired), Weather Forecast Office, Flagstaff, Arizona, has been completed. The TM will be sent to the printers this week for publication.

Four New Technical Attachments Published This Week: There are four Technical Attachments (TA) being published this week. The first two TAs entitled "VIL Density as a Potential Hail Indicator Across Northeast and Central Nevada" and "Northeast and East Central Nevada 'VIL of the Day'" are authored by Jim Wallmann, Weather Forecast Office, Elko, NV. The third TA is entitled "Rainfall Events and Their Effect on Severely Burned Areas of Western Montana Following the Forest Fires of 2000," and is authored by Ray Nickless, Eric Boldt, and Craig Neesvig, Weather Forecast Office, Missoula, MT. The fourth TA is authored by Alexander Tardy, Weather Forecast Office, Sacramento, CA, and is entitled "Thundersnow in the Sierra Nevada." The TAs are located on the National Weather Service Web site at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov>, under "Technical Attachments."

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Central Radar Server Upgrade: The NWS Telecommunications Operations Center (TOC) this week replaced the single Regional Radar Image Distribution Server (RRIDS) with new dual servers. The dual server configuration provides automatic failover from the primary server to the backup server. This upgrade will improve the availability of radar data on the Web farms.

Mount Lukens NWR Relocation: The Mount Wilson KWO-37 NWR that provides coverage for the Los Angeles, California broadcast area will be relocated to a new site on Mount Lukens during the week of October 14, 2002. The site lease should be signed by October 1, 2002.

The Open Radar Product Generator (ORPG) Build 2.0 : ORPG Build 2.0 system-wide deployment is scheduled to begin the week of September 30, 2002. Installation and test component procedures were successful at all the Beta sites. Training will be available for download on September 27, 2002 at:

www.wdtb.noaa.gov

EMRS Software Release Version 4.0: The implementation of the new EMRS (Software Release Version 4.0) on Monday, September 23, 2002, was implemented as planned. The new EMRS is now available for operational use. All NWS sites should be using the new EMRS to request and document maintenance. If any sites should experience difficulty or require any assistance, please feel free to contact the EMRS group at 301-713-1892. Please remember to access the new EMRS using Internet Explorer 5.5 or Higher. Additionally, in preparation for operational use of the new EMRS, all users will need to update their EMRS bookmarks as follows:

EMRS Home Page - http://ops13web.nws.noaa.gov/pls/emrsuser/emrs_main.home
Maintenance Request - http://ops13web.nws.noaa.gov/pls/cmdad/emrs_des.request